

Docket No. 520.43119X00
Serial No. 10/659,372
Office Action dated December 1, 2005

REMARKS

I. Introduction

By the present Amendment, claims 2-6, 8, and 9 have been amended. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 10-15 are newly presented for consideration. Accordingly, claims 2-15 are now pending in the application. Claims 3 and 9 are independent.

II. Objections to the Specification

In the Office Action of December 1, 2005, the Specification was objected to because of a minor informality. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that page 9, lines 31-32 recites "the Y-Y cross section in Fig. 3," and that this was inconsistent with the disclosure in Fig. 3.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended the Specification to correct the clerical error on page 9. Specifically, the Specification has been amended to properly indicate that the cross section is taken along the line Z-Z.

III. Rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2, 4, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0099054 A1 issued to Kamijima. Claims 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamijima.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) and 35 USC §103(a) as being either anticipated by, or obvious over, Kamijima.

The cancellation of claim 1 renders part of this ground of rejection moot. Regarding the remaining claims, further amendments have also rendered these particular grounds of rejection moot.

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By the present Amendment, claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in independent claim 1. This constitutes the subject matter which has previously been indicated to be allowable.

Claims 2 and 4-8 have been amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 3, and are therefore believed allowable over the art of record.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite limitations that are present in independent claim 3 and previously indicated as not being disclosed by the art of record.

Accordingly, independent claim 9 is believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Claims 10-15 are newly presented and depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 9. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be allowable over the art of record.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

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V. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.


If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

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AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43119X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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